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NO. 18.



OUR HOME, OUR COUNTRY, AND OUR BROTHER MAN.

WASHING FRUIT TREES.

There seems to be quite a "revival" on the subject of fruit and fruit trees, and we are happy to record the fact. Scarcely a day passes that we have not some query put to us, or sent to us, in regard to the best mode of cleansing and renovating this or that kind of tree.

We gave some hints upon this subject, not long since, in the Farmer, and we are willing to renew them as often as they are likely to do good.

A friend enquires, What will be the effect of using common soft soap upon different kinds of fruit trees? We answer him, that it will have an excellent effect in cleansing and invigorating the tree. If it be an apple tree, and have a rough, scaly, mossy bark, it had better be scraped first, and then the soap will have a good chance for action. The following extract, from a letter published thirty years ago in the Agricultural Repository, will corroborate our statement. It is by N. Hammond, of Easton, in Maryland. "A gentleman in this neighborhood, some years ago, observing the situation of his trees, and having unsuccessfully used many applications, at length directed their trunks or bodies to be washed and well rubbed with soft soap; and it is not easy to imagine the early change which appeared in their bark and foliage; the bark became smooth and glossy, and seemed sound and beautiful, and he thought the tree was greatly improved in every respect. I have tried the same experiment, and with equal advantage to apple trees, pear trees, and peach trees, and am persuaded they have been greatly benefited by this process. It is used in the spring, and may be repeated as frequently as the trees appear to require it."

RENOVATING AND CURING WOUNDS ON TREES. We last year published Forsyth's composition for healing wounds on trees, and for renovating trees that are decayed. We again publish it, in order that we may remind those who have heretofore read it, and to inform those who have not. We know that it is a sort of "all-healing ointment" for fruit trees, and ought to be much oftener applied than it is.

Take one bushel of fresh cow dung, half a bushel of lime rubbish of old buildings, (that from the ceilings of rooms is preferable,) half a bushel of wood ashes, and a sixteenth of a bushel of pit or river sand; the three last articles to be sifted fine before they are mixed; then work them well together with a spade, and afterwards with a wooden beater, until the stuff is very smooth, like fine plaster used for the ceiling of rooms.

APPLICATION OF THE COMPOSITION. Care must be taken to prepare the tree properly for application of the composition, by cutting away all the dead, decayed and injured parts, till you come to the fresh, sound wood, leaving the surface of the wood very smooth, and rounding off the edges of the bark with a draw knife or other instrument, perfectly smooth, which must be particularly attended to; then lay on the plaster about one-eighth of an inch thick, all over the part where the wood or bark has been cut away, finishing off the edge as thin as possible; then take a quantity of dry powder of wood ashes mixed with a sixth part of the same quantity of the ashes of burnt bones; put it into a tin box with holes in the top, and shake the powder on the surface of the plaster, till the whole is covered over with it, letting it remain for half an hour to absorb the moisture; then apply more powder, rubbing it on with the hands, and repeating the application of the powder till the whole plaster becomes a dry and smooth surface.

As the best way of using the composition is found by experience to be in a liquid form, it must therefore be reduced to the consistency of pretty thick paint, by mixing it up with a sufficient quantity of urine and soap suds, and laid on with a painter's brush. The powder of wood ashes and burnt bones is to be applied as before directed, patting it down with the hand.

The above comprises the principal part of Forsyth's directions for applying his preparation. It is some labor to prepare and apply it as it should be, but where a valuable tree is to be saved, you will find it labor well expended.

We are aware that for some years past many orchardists have not considered Forsyth's composition so highly as it was formerly held. They think that a composition made similar to grafting clay and grafting wax, is as good or better. We have tried them all, and prefer Forsyth's; but the operator should recollect that, in using either, care should be taken in cutting away the dead and useless parts, remembering that the whole success of the application and operation is based upon the principle of assisting nature, by first clearing away all obstructions; second, defending the wood from winds, sun, weather, and all decomposing influences; and third, by manuring and enriching the soil, by which the tree shall be supplied with *raw material* to work up into a crop for your benefit.

* If you cannot get any lime rubbish, take some air-slaked lime.

ONION SALVE. The Genesee Farmer recommends a pounded onion for burns and scalds.

BLUE-NOSE MACKEREL. Forty thousand barrels of mackerel have arrived in Boston, from the British Provinces, since last Sept.

JAUFFRET'S MODE OF MANUFACTURING MANURE.

We promised, some time ago, to give Jauffret's mode of manufacturing manure from straw, weeds, and other vegetable matters. Jauffret is a Frenchman, and has taken out a patent for his mode in France and England, but that cannot hinder the practicing his mode in this country, provided he has not also obtained a patent from the U. States. The following is a condensed statement of his mode.

The first thing to be done, is to prepare a quantity of what he calls saturated water, which is done by having a vat made of any convenient size, which is half filled with water and into which is thrown weeds, and almost any kind of vegetable matter that will ferment readily, so as to fill it, with the water, three fourths full. He then adds, to a vat 12 feet long, six feet wide and six feet deep, ten pounds of quick lime, and five ounces of sal-ammoniac. Then you may add sink water, refuse from kitchen, dead animals and such like matters. Stir it up occasionally, and if it becomes too offensive in odor add more unslaked lime occasionally.

The next step is to have another vat, smaller than the other, into which sufficient of the above made liquor is to be put to dissolve, or mix with the following materials, which last prepared water he calls *Lessive*.

Take 200 lbs. of fecal matter and urine (from vaults or privies).
50 lbs. of chimney soot,
400 " gypsum, (plaster of Paris),
400 " unslaked lime,
20 " unslaked lime,
20 " sea salt,
10 ounces of salt petre,
50 pounds of what he calls *Leaven of manure*. Mix all these with the saturating water till it makes a thick porridge. The leaven of manure is the drainings of a former operation, if there has been one. The above ingredients should be mixed as follows. Stir the first vat up till it is thick, and then pour a portion of it into the lessive vat, into this throw the lime, then the soot, then the ashes, then the fecal matters, the salt and the salt petre. The plaster of Paris is to be thrown in little by little, stirring the mixture to prevent caking. When the whole is well mixed, stir in the leaven.

When the above substances cannot be obtained but at too great expense, Jauffret substitutes other things; for instance—instead of fecal matter and urine, take 280 lbs. of horse, cow, or pig dung; for the gypsum, 100 lbs. of baked or burnt earth or clay; for the soot, 100 lbs. sheep manure and the same weight of rich mud; for the unslaked ashes, 50 lbs. of leached ashes or 2 lbs. of potash; for sea salt, 100 lbs. of sea water. If you come short of "Lessive," make it up with the saturating water, always using the most impure and putrid that you can obtain.

Having got the above materials ready, clear away a spot of ground and beat it hard so that water will not soak in readily, and make little pits around this plat into which the liquor which drains from the heap may run. Then take your straw, weeds, &c., or whatever you wish to convert into manure, and put them into the vat of lessive, wet and pack them into a heap, treading them down as to make them compact. At every layer, of a foot, pour on a quantity of the lessive, and tread it in so that the whole shall be well mixed together. The heap may be six or seven feet high, and when all is packed, spread the bottom of the lessive vat on the top so as to line it all over, heating and pressing all about so as to make it as snug and compact as possible. At the end of 48 hours a fermentation commences. On the third day the top of the heap is to be opened six inches, and the sediment which was thrown on to the top is turned over, and again drenched is given with the lessive, and again covered up as before. On the seventh day make holes near each other with a fork, say three feet deep, and another drenching given and again covered up. About the ninth day give it another drenching, throw the holes somewhat deeper. In 12 or 15 days the manure will be fit to spread.

It will at once be perceived that it will not do to work upon this in freezing weather. Our readers will also perceive that the principle of manufacturing manure in this way, depends on mixing matters in a putrifying and liquid state, with those which are dry and inert, so as to bring about fermentation among the whole, and reduce them to a soluble state; or, as we before expressed it, using a *rotten liquor* to assist in the decomposition of vegetable matters.

POTATO DISEASES.

"Is the disease called curl in potatoes, the same as the potato rot?"

A correspondent asks us the above question. In England there is a disease in potatoes called the "curl;" whether it is identically the same as the disease which we call by the more expressive name of "potato rot," we cannot say, not having been there to examine. Perhaps some of our readers, who have traveled in that country, can inform our friend correctly. From Loudon's description of it, we should infer that it was the same disease. He says, speaking of diseases of the potato in England, "The only serious disease of the potato, is the curl, and this is now ascertained to be produced by the too great concentration of the sap in the tuber, and this concentration or thickening is prevented by early taking up. This discovery was first made by the farmers near Edinburgh observing that seed potatoes procured from the moors or elevated cold ground in the interior parts of the country, never suffered from the curl, and it consequently became a practice, every three or four years, to procure change of seed from those districts."

Experiments, by the London Horticultural Society, proved that the disease called the curl was prevented by using unripe seed.

Connected with this latter idea we recollect of having seen a letter written many years since, by William Moody, Esq., of Saco, to Hon. J. Quincy, where he recommends the

gathering of potatoes before ripe, for seed the next year.

As the potato crop engrosses the attention of all classes—their value being appreciated since they grow scarce—anything that will give any light upon its nature, its physiology, or the causes and cure of its diseases, becomes interesting, and we wish all would communicate such facts as they may have observed in this or other countries.

We wish that some of the societies or institutions that are able, would commence a series of comparative experiments in analysing the potato. Let some able chemist commence analysing the potato as soon as formed, and continue to analyse during the successive stages of its growth, carefully noting the ingredients, and what the difference of material was from time to time, and what in those that rotted from those that did not. Something of practical value would thus be elicited.

REPORT ON CROPS.

The Committee of the Kennebec County Agricultural Society, on Crops, have examined the claims of the several competitors for premiums, and report as follows:

They recommend that the first premium on Winter Rye be given to Moses Taber of Vassalboro', for his crop of twenty bushels on an acre.

The first premium on Winter Wheat, they recommend be given to Moses Taber, for his crop of thirteen and one-half bushels on three-fourths of an acre.

On Potatoes, they think Moses Taber entitled to the first premium, for his crop of one hundred and seventy-five bushels on an acre; to Johnson Frost, of Winthrop, for his crop of ninety-one bushels on fifteen-sixteenths of an acre, the second premium.

They recommend that the first premium on Barley be given to Moses Taber, for his crop of thirty-two bushels on an acre.

They award the first premium on Pumpkins, to Moses Taber.

They think Moses Taber is entitled to the first premium on Compost Manure.

On Corn, they recommend that the first premium be given to Dudley Hains of Readfield, for his crop of ninety-three bushels on an acre; the second premium to E. C. Snell of Winthrop, for his crop of sixty-three bushels on an acre.

Mark Stevens of Fayette, they think entitled to the first premium on Spring Wheat, for his crop of sixteen bushels on an acre.

The first premium on Ruta Baga Turnips, they think should be given to S. N. Watson of Fayette, for his crop of one hundred and fifty bushels on one-fourth of an acre.

They recommend that the first premium on Carrots be given to Cyrus Sampson of Winthrop, for his crop of two hundred and seven bushels on forty-three rods.

The Committee remark that in consequence of the unfavorable season for Grain and the Root Crops, and the almost universal complaint of short crops, they have given premiums for lighter crops than under ordinary circumstances would be justifiable; we say this, too, without intending to sanction the opinion, if such opinion exists, that to be entitled to the premiums of the Society, the crops must be very large. The farmer who raises sixty or seventy bushels of corn to the acre, and does it by superior skill, without a heavy outlay of manure and labor, is doing better for himself, and confers a greater favor on the public, if he lets his process be known, than he who produces one hundred bushels or more by a greater outlay, though the cost of his corn may be less per bushel. Other things are to be taken into the account. Generally other parts of the farm suffer for manure when enough is applied to one portion to produce the hundred bushels to the acre. Again, it is, in our climate, attended with the almost certain loss of the following grain crop, by "lodging" before it is filled, and the equally certain heavy crop of very poor hay—the making of which often amounts to half its value. On some farms, as in the case of Mr. Hains, on which but a small part can be tiled, and it being too full of rocks to be plowed, such a course may be encouraged, if, by repeated hoe crops, the manure is so far spent as not to endanger the following crops; but we believe it is generally to be condemned.

We are not quite prepared to recommend Mr. Snell's method, that of hoeing corn; but once, we are aware that on moist farms it was last year difficult finding periods when the land was dry enough for repeated hoeings. This may be an excuse for him; still his getting sixty bushels of good corn to the acre is evidence that his former culture has been good; otherwise his corn would have been overrun with weeds.

We remark again, that some of the statements were altogether too indefinite in regard to kind and quantity of manure used. "Load of manure," as used by farmers to denote quantity or bulk, is no more definite than "considerable of stone," "as big as a piece of chalk." Some of the statements are so far short of what they should be, that we should have been under the necessity of withholding the premiums had we had no other means, than the statements, to get the facts. An economical application of labor and manure in the production of crops, is what the Society wish to encourage—not simply the raising of great crops. To judge of this, Committees must know something of the kind and condition of the soil, the kind and quantity of manure applied, and the manner of applying it, and the whole course of culture.

It may not be out of place or out of season, at a time when the failure of the potato crop is so general, to give some of the information derived from competitors and others at the time of the meeting of the Committee, from other sources at other times, and from our own experiments. We do not pretend to have discovered the cause of the "potato rot," nor a remedy for the disease; but the facts we have gathered from these sources go far to prove that the most certain way to prevent it is to plant early varieties as early

in the season as the weather and state of the land will admit. The "White Blue Nose," as it is called, has so far escaped the disease better than any other kind; and, on land in good condition, yields very well. If planted very early, it will bear high manuring without danger of disease, and yields better than other kinds of early potatoes.

Friend Taber's method of raising turnips is deserving of notice. As is seen by his statements, if he does not make his sheep "cut their own fodder," he makes them do much towards producing it; and if any man, after seeing the condition his flock of sheep has been in for a few years past, after having been wintered chiefly on straw and turnips, will pronounce turnips good for nothing, he must be fully blind. We learn that by folding his sheep at night, a part of the sun-fodder he has sometimes raised enough turnips to afford them one bushel a day to every fifty sheep, through the feeding season, and this done only with the addition of a small quantity of leached ashes to the manure the sheep make upon the land. We recommend a gratuity to friend Taber for his crop of English turnips.

All which, with accompanying statements, is respectfully submitted.

NATHAN FOSTER, per order.

Mr. Taber's Statements.

To the Com. of Ken. Co. Ag. Society.

I have raised, the past season, on one acre of deep, mellow loam, (a small part stiff clay) thirty-two bushels of barley, of the two-rowed variety. The year before, this ground was manured with about twenty loads of long manure, and planted with potatoes. Plowed and harrowed late in the fall to kill winter grass. Plowed again the middle of the fifth month, and sowed with two bushels of seed. Harvested first of eighth month, as soon as the larger part of the ears were in the red row.

With me I have found much the best time to cut this grain, a fortnight too soon, as some say. In this way more grain is saved, as much will shatter if left to get fully ripe; and the straw, with a small quantity of turnips, is worth as much for winter feed for sheep, as a good crop of English hay from the same ground. I consider this a valuable grain, as it ripens early, threshes easy, straw the best of any for fodder, and comes in season when the stock of provender with farmers is short, for swine in particular. I have found it excellent food for working horses, if scalded water be put to it some hours before using. Fowls, too, are very fond of it—and in old times good warm biscuit were made from the flour, very well to the taste and much for the health of some farmers' families, as I know by experience.

I do not consider the crop raised by me this year, a large one; but it was frequently remarked as being the best on our road, I enter for premium.

Moses Taber.

Vassalboro', 1st mo., 6, 1848.

To the Committee on Crops.

I offer, for the Society's premium, my crop of English turnips, raised the present season, on one-half acre of land, three hundred and ten bushels.

In the fall of 1836 this ground was a bound green sward. Plowed late in fall—intended, as usual, with me for this crop, to manure by yarding sheep over night for three or four weeks previous to sowing, but it being a cold and naturally moist piece, with concave surface, could not get the flock on, but about one-half the time, and that only a few nights. The other half six horse-cart loads of weak manure; the odds and ends, mere scrapings where manure had been, and all the piece harrowed several times, with a heavy sharp harrow. Seed sown broad cast the 20th of 7th month. Less than one day thinning the plants, and weeding completed the after culture. Harvested last week in tenth month, done by odd jobs, cannot say how much time was spent. All acquainted with raising English turnips, know it is not a great work to dig one-half an acre, when they grow large.

I consider the turnip crop one of the most valuable to the farmer engaged in sheep husbandry in particular. Learned writers, in our State, to the contrary, notwithstanding, may compare them to *snare balls* in value for feeding stock—I am certain that there is a saving of many tons of hay annually in feeding my flock, by using, on an average, some six hundred bushels English and ruta baga turnips, and I leave you to be judges in the question, just stating the fact that for several winters my flock have been fed from nine to twelve weeks, morning and noon, with straw only, and one bushel turnips (English turnips) in early winter, ruta baga later, to twenty-five sheep, with foddering of coarsest hay at night, and they have fully held their own on the feed. Now I would ask these gentlemen if they believe the turnips had nothing to do with the health and good condition of my flock, seldom having a sick one, and still more rare losing one by disease, never by leanness or poverty in my flock.

Some years I have kept an exact account of labor in raising turnips, and found the cost of fencing, digging stones and stumps, (as I have always taken the most unproductive pieces of pasture, or some worn out patch of land) including all expense of cultivating, to be from three to four cents per bushel; and this is fully returned in a few years by the increased productiveness of land after the turnips. The present statement of this year, includes all the manure, except yarding sheep a few weeks, spring and fall, that I have used for many years in raising turnips.

I submit this crop to your consideration, for premium.

Moses Taber.

Vassalboro', 1st mo., 6, 1848.

Mr. Hains' Statement.

To the Committee on Crops.

Having made an entry for the Society's premium on corn, I herewith give you a statement of my manner of cultivation and the amount of crop on one acre and twenty rods of land. (This piece of land, lying in one corner of the field and cut off by a narrow swale, is so situated as to receive no wash from other parts. The soil is a red loam,

naturally very strong. This piece of ground yielded about one ton of hay the last year, 1846. I plowed it, in the fall of '46, with a Prouty & Mears plow, ten inches deep, and spread on the piece about five cords of old manure, and cross harrowed once. In the spring of '47, I spread on six cords of green manure, and harrowed length and crosswise with a two horse cultivator, (which is the best kind of harrow for greensward or broke-up land,) manured in the hill, three feet by two and one-half feet apart, with a compost from my hog-yard, made principally of muck, about one-half a shovelful, and a spoonful of plaster to the hill; planted about the 20th of May, with a large eight-rowed variety of corn. Hoed it twice, without hilling, keeping it clear from weeds. Soon after the corn had siled, I cut out all that appeared unproductive and fed it to the hogs and cattle; cut the stalks at the usual time, harvested about the middle of October, and the amount of corn in this piece was, when husked, two hundred and eight bushels of ears of good sound corn, and some ten or fifteen bushels of poor, which was not measured, it not being suitable to crib.

DUDLEY HAINS.

Readfield, January 8, 1848.

Mr. Watson's Statement.

To the Committee on Crops.

The soil on which I raised my crop of ruta baga, which I enter for the Society's premium, was a yellow, rocky loam; the ground had been cropped with the scythe some ten years; it was broken up in the fall of 1844, sowed with oats in '45, and with barley in '46, without any manure. Last spring I spread on five loads of green manure, from my stable; plowed and then harrowed the same, then spread on two loads of old manure and harrowed again; opened the rows two feet asunder, and strewed in plaster sufficient to whiten the ground; after which I sowed the seed, and covered slightly with hoe—this was done some of the first days of June. The first of November I harvested, from one-fourth of an acre, one hundred and fifty bushels. My crop was not so large as I have formerly raised, from the fact, as I believe, that I let the plants stand too near together; the turnips were smaller, but very smooth and good. Last year I raised nine hundred and twenty bushels from one acre.

S. N. WATSON.

Fayette, Nov. 15th, 1847.

TIME FOR PLANTING CORN.

The time for planting Indian corn varies, according to the locality or season in which it is intended to grow. In the southern portions of the United States, it is generally planted in January or February, whereas, at the extreme north, east, or it is not usually done before the latter part of May or early in June.

It is a rule with many, to make the flowering or unfolding of the leaves of vegetation, and the appearance, or pairing, of certain buds, as natural guides. For instance, some plant when the apple tree is bursting its blossom buds, or when the June berry or shad bush is in full bloom; others adhere to the old Indian rule, in planting as soon as the leaf of the white oak is the size of a squirrel's ear; while not a few listen to the notes of the whip-poor-will and cuckoo, as unerring guides. But we have ever found, from experience, that a period somewhat later than those just named, when the ground has become sufficiently warmed by vernal heat, to cause a speedy germination of the seed, is far more favorable and safer from late frosts and the depredations of blackbirds and crows. Corn, planted in the middle and northern states, from the 30th of May to the 1st of June, with proper management, can be made to vegetate in four or five days, and in a week more, will be large enough to weed. If planted too early, it will often lie in the ground two or three weeks before it will come up, and by the middle of June, it will not be near so large nor vigorous as that planted towards the end of May.

Previous to planting, the germination of the corn may be hastened by steeping it, as directed at pp. 54, 90, of the current volume; and the kernel may be completely protected against the ravages of grubs, wire worms, birds, squirrels, &c., by smearing it over with tar, dissolved in boiling water, and then rolling it in powdered plaster until it is dry. Thus treated, it has been known to come up in 24 hours. (American Agriculturist.)

The following are the articles referred to above:

STEEP FOR INDIAN CORN. Take 1 lb. of saltpetre (nitrate of potash), and dissolve in 6 quarts of water; or 2 lbs. of copperas (sulphate of iron), may be dissolved in 5 or 6 quarts of water. Let your seed corn soak in the mixture from 24 to 36 hours before planting, and it will not only be less liable to the attacks of birds and worms, but the young plants will take an earlier start and be more vigorous in their growth.

SOAK FOR SEEDS. It was observed by Baron Humboldt, that simple metallic substances are unfavorable to the germination of plants, and that metallic oxides promote it in the exact ratio of their oxidation. Consequently, he was induced to seek some substance with which oxygen might be combined in such a manner as to facilitate its separation. In order to effect this, he made choice of oxygenated muriatic acid gas, in which he immersed some seeds of the common garden radish (pepper grass), which exhibited germination in the remarkably short period of six hours; whereas, when immersed in water alone, they did not germinate in less than thirty-two hours.

Another very successful and economical steep for garden or other seeds, consists of a solution of a quarter of an ounce of chloride of lime in one gallon of water, in which the seeds should be allowed to soak for the space of four hours, and then be sown in the ordinary way. It is stated, on good authority, that corn and peas, treated in this manner, have been known to throw out germs one and a half inches in twenty-four hours; and in forty-eight hours, to acquire roots more than double that length.

The latter experiment may be tested, at a trifling cost, and should it succeed, as stated above, the germination, or coming up of many seeds, may be accelerated at least a week or ten days.

FACTS IN FARMING.

CULTIVATION OF POTATOES. The cultivation of potatoes has become so precarious for the last four or five years, that it may be of service to publish an account of experiments, even if they have proved unsuccessful. I will therefore state my experience, such as it is, with a hope that it will be of more or less benefit to those engaged in the same calling as myself.

I have planted on a variety of soils, including a heavy clayey loam, gravel, black vegetable earth, loam, rich in animal and vegetable matter, and on a light, sandy loam. In the latter, I have always succeeded in raising sound potatoes, and I consider such a soil the most certain of producing a sound, healthy crop.

In 1845, I planted my potatoes in April, May, June, and July. Those planted in May, I found succeeded best; and the vines of those planted late decayed early in September, soon after the young tubers began to form.

On the 15th of May, 1846, I planted an acre of potatoes, on a moist loam, suitable for growing Indian corn. One part of the field, I manured with newly-slacked lime; one with wood ashes; one with charcoal; one with bone dust; one with plaster; and another part with plaster, lime, ashes, and salt, mixed. The result was, that the largest yield and the least rot, occurred where lime only was applied, at the time of planting, in the hill.

Observing that the two rows of potatoes next to the corn, which occupied a part of the last named field, were entirely free from disease, and produced well, last season (1847), I planted a lot alternately, with two rows of corn, and two rows of potatoes; also, a small patch exclusively with potatoes, in the same field, manuring the whole with lime in the hill. Those produced between the corn were all sound, and continue so to the present time, and were abundant in their yield; whereas, the others, planted by themselves, were more or less affected with disease. A portion of the ground was subsoiled to the depth of 16 inches. On this part, the produce was one third greater.

From my experience, as above, I would recommend potatoes to be planted among Indian corn, before the 15th of May, in a light, sandy loam, or some other dry soil, sub-soiled 16 inches deep, with a gilt of newly-slacked lime, applied to each hill. D.

Orange County, N. Y., March 27th, 1848.

(American Agriculturist.)

THE HORSE AND HIS RIDER.

Many who keep horses are not aware that they are thinking animals, and have feelings, passions and affections very much like human beings, although they cannot talk. People who do not appreciate the character of the horse, are apt to treat him without love or mercy, and without any appeal to his natural intelligence. The Bible saith, "The horse knoweth his owner," and he knows more, for he knows when he is used as a horse should be used; and in respect to treatment, the Turk and Arab have much the advantage of many Christians I could name—the Pagans make friends of their horses, they love each other, and on the sandy desert or the wild plain, they lie down side by side, and each is equally ready to resist the approach of an enemy.

A horse may be taught like a child, by those who have won his affections; but the method of teaching is by showing distinctly what you wish him to do, not by beating him because he does not understand and perform at the outset all you desire of him. Horses, like men, have very different intellectual capacities and tempers; but all may be mastered by kindness, while the best, the most high-spirited and the most generous, will be ruined by harsh treatment.

At the circus, you have ocular demonstration that the horse understands the language of man; and man may learn more virtues than one, if he will observe the habits of his horse. "Ask the beast, he will teach thee!" says the wise man.

A neighbor of mine on Long Island, N. Y., having a favorite horse which always accompanied him in his journeyings to and from the city, by his stopping at a noted tavern on the road, generally got top-heavy by the time of starting for home. The horse knew when his master was drunk, by his vacillating motion, and on these occasions would regulate his movements so as to prevent his master from falling, if possible. One night he staggered out of the tavern and was helped on the saddle; before he had gone a mile he fell, and his foot hung in the stirrup; the horse stopped, and with the big tear rolling in his eye, the compassionate animal looked on his drunken master, and revelling in his mind how best he could help him, he gripped the rim of his hat with his teeth, but this gave way, and again the drunkard's head smote the ground; he then seized hold by the collar of his coat, [the man's head lay near the fore-foot of the horse] and thus held him up till he was able to extricate his foot from the stirrup. The master having got some blood from a cut on his head, and got a terrible fright besides, was now comparatively sober; he was able to mount, and arrived safe home, where he related the above particulars, and thanking God for his narrow escape, he next day joined the temperance society. It is ten years ago. The man and horse live like brothers, and will, till death parts them.

A friend of mine had a valuable horse stolen from his stable; he had some years he was owned by a gentleman, whose road lay through the town from whence the horse was stolen. As soon as the horse came opposite, "he marched up to his old master's," put his head in at the open door, and began neighing most loudly; his rider kicked, spurred, coaxed and whipped, but all to no purpose; the master came out, they recognized each other—the man by naming his horse, and the horse by laying his head on his master's shoulder. The gentleman relinquished the horse, and the thief was traced and transported.

A favorite old hunter in Somersetshire, England, being locked in the stable, and hearing the cry of hounds, became very restive. The groom seeing he wanted some sport, saddled him, and placing a large monkey on the saddle, turned him loose. The horse followed the sound of the pack, and was first in at the death of the fox; but the amazement of the hunters was extreme, on observing the monkey holding the reins with all the dexterity of a true sportsman.

I saw a man hold his watch before the eye of his horse, and ask, "What is the clock?" It was four, and the horse struck the floor as many times with his foot. Being told, make ready, present fire, he seized hold with his teeth, on a cord hanging on his shoulder, thus drawing the trigger a pistol which was fastened to the saddle on his back, and so the pistol exploded.

Four years ago, a gentleman in Brooklyn owned a horse; when told to salute the company, he stood on his hind legs like a dog, and looking round, gave a nod with his head. Sir Walter Raleigh makes mention of a horse which lived in his time, of whom it is related, he would restore a glove to its owner, after his owner had whispered the man's name in the horse's ear. When shown a piece of money, and asked how many pence it contained—supposed it to be a shilling—he would strike the ground twelve times with his foot. This renowned horse is alluded to by Shakespeare, in "Love's Labor Lost," Act 1st, Scene 3d.

A gentleman commanded a troop of cavalry in an English regiment, for many years on the continent, and at the battle of Waterloo, when the army was being put on the peace establishment, the horses in his troop, (or many had fallen) were brought to public sale. The officer was a landed gentleman; he thought it was a pity to see these noble animals, who had often charged with him up to the cannon's mouth, fastened in butcher, baker, or cab-men's wagons; he purchased the entire lot; he turned them loose in a fine grass park of his own, there to eat, drink and sleep, all the days of their lives. One afternoon there came up a dark cloud, and presently a flash of lightning. The horses were feeding, and scattered through the park—they had been used to see the flash, before the report of the cannon; they threw up their heads and pricked their ears to listen. With the first peal of thunder they all galloped to the centre of the park and fell into line, as straight as if backed by their riders; they stood in this position for some time, when, finding it was a false alarm, they, each horse, returned to his own tent.

About the same period a baker was ascending Westminster street, London. At 10 A. M. he was mounted on a fine black horse, having panniers strapped, and one hanging on each side of the horse. (Panniers are large baskets made to fit the sides of the horse, and hung with leather straps across his back—such baskets will hold about fifty loaves.) Just as the horse and his rider came in front of the barracks belonging to the Horse Guards, the trumpet sounded for the morning parade; the loaves jumping and rolling in the street, like things of life—the baker, with one hand drawing on the bridle, with the other grasping the horse's mane, his hat flying aloft like chaff before the wind, and his long snowy locks streaming astern—like Goliath of old in his famous race from London to Bambyur—onward flew the horse, charging up to the front rank of the cavalry, an officer guessing at the joke, motioned two of the troopers,



MAINE FARMER.

AUGUSTA, THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1849.

ENCOURAGE YOUR OWN.

Mankind are so constituted that they must live in societies, that they must be mutually dependent upon each other, and being thus dependent, it becomes a duty to assist each other.

Now there are ten thousand ways of assisting each other, but for brevity's sake we will mention only a few of them. One way is, when a fellow-being is actually sick, helpless and in distress, to go forward, like a Christian, and give him, as far as you can reasonably, attention and supplies that he needs.

Another way is, when you see a neighbor striving honestly and industriously and patiently to accomplish a work or business which will inure him to no one and please him, and add to the comforts of himself and family, encourage him. Encouragement may be negative or positive. Negative encouragement is to lay no obstacles in his way, and this is oftentimes serviceable to him. Positive encouragement is to commend him to others—to purchase his products when you need, instead of sending off a distance for the same article, not a whit better. Encourage your own—that is, encourage your children—encourage your neighbors—encourage those of your town—encourage those of your county—encourage those of your State—and encourage those of your nation. There is a miserable propensity in too many to put down those who are beginning any business near us, and who, with small capital and feeble means, are striving against every disadvantage, to accomplish their designs; while at the same time they will patronize, by their praise and their money, some distant manufacturer of their same article. This isn't right. Encourage your own. We know of a young man, in our own county, who has been at work some time getting up an establishment of his own for the manufacture of wooden ware of various kinds, such as hoe-handles, mop-handles, clothes-pins, and such like exceedingly useful articles. He has invented machinery of different kinds, and with commendable perseverance pushed his way along until he can turn out his articles with "neatness and despatch," but he complains that the good people of Maine are loth to purchase of him on such terms as will enable him to profit by his labors. That most of the traders who keep such articles prefer sending to Boston and paying cash for identically such articles, rather than to take his and pay cash. The excuse they give is, that they have a bill of goods put up, and they may as well have these things put in, and pay in three or four months for the whole. This is not a good excuse. Suppose we should all say to the trader in our neighborhood, oh, we may as well get our supplies where you do, and pay for the whole in a lump. How would he prosper? Encourage your own. If your neighbor can supply you with an article, as good every way and as cheap every way, buy it in preference to sending off hundreds or thousands of miles. You not only thus serve yourself as well, but you help your neighbor. You mutually assist each other. You encourage your own.

FOUND. It will be recollected that Capt. Elijah Crockett, of East Thomaston, disappeared on the night of the 27th of January last, and it was thought had met with foul play at the hands of some villain. The Thomaston Gazette states that his body was found on Tuesday evening of last week, about a mile and a half from the village, and in such a position as to render it probable that he stumbled into a hollow, and being unable to extricate himself, perished from exposure to the severe weather. The jury of inquest returned a verdict in accordance with this belief. No marks of violence were discovered.

PROBABLE MURDER AND SUICIDE. The Boston Bee of Saturday states that, on the evening previous, a Frenchman by the name of Dutee, shot, with a double-barreled pistol, a female named Ellen Oakes, his paramour, of whom he had become jealous. Three balls took effect in the neck and one in the head of the woman. Dutee being seized by another female, he placed the pistol to his body and discharged it, the ball taking effect just below the heart. The man and woman were living on Saturday morning, but slight hopes were entertained of their surviving.

KENNEBEC TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION. The adjourned meeting of the Association will be held in State-st. Chapel, in this village, on Wednesday next, commencing at 10 o'clock A. M. Parents as well as teachers are invited to be present. It is expected that the doings of the session will be highly interesting and profitable, as work was laid out for it at the January meeting; the intervening time affording ample opportunity for thorough preparation. Let there be a general attendance of teachers.

A FACT FOR GUNNERS. Capt. R. F. Stockton, of the navy, has been experimenting in gunning, and has published the results of his researches. He states that he finds that a gun is not so likely to burst if the ball does not come in contact with the powder, as it is if it does. This is contrary to the commonly received opinion. It used to be said that if the ball was not driven in contact with the charge of powder, the gun would surely burst.

HONOR TO BOSTON. Hon. H. Mann states that, for the last ten years, the expenditure by the city of Boston for public schools, has been equal to the whole expended by the Government in England, for her 17,000,000 people.

INSULATING THE BED. A French surgeon recommends nervous people to sleep upon a bedstead that is not on glass feet, and moved a foot and a half from the wall.

THE FRIENDS IN A QUANDARY. The Friends' yearly meeting in Baltimore, charged its members to educate the free negroes. The laws of Virginia forbid it, and the Friends of that State must either break the laws of the meeting or the laws of the State.

MEMORIC ROGUE. A company, called the Brotherhood, organized for the purposes of speculation, have been hoaxed by a chap who pretended to be a member of the company, by the name of P. B. Smith, has been jeweled out of between forty and fifty thousand dollars by the rogue.

HORRID AFFAIR. On Thursday morning last, about one o'clock, Mr. Kimball, one of the night police of Boston, saw two men come out of the hardware store of Messrs. Gardner & Thayer, and rightly taking them for burglars, made after them, crying "stop thief!" He pursued them through several streets into Sister street, where they met watchman Daniel Estes, who, hearing the outcry, was on the alert. Estes seized one of the robbers, and, being more than a match for him, the latter drew a pistol and fired, the ball entering the body of the watchman just below the heart. He staggered and fell into the arms of Mr. Kimball, who at that instant came up. The other burglar then drew a pistol and discharged it at Kimball, but did not succeed in injuring him. They then fled, and have not as yet been discovered. Estes died the following day. The city authorities have offered a reward of one thousand dollars for a reward of the ruffians. These desperate burglars carried off but little booty—only a few bowie and butter knives having been missed.

DAILY TELEGRAPH. We are in the receipt of a splendid little daily journal, recently started in Dover, N. H., called the Daily Telegraph. It is published and edited by the Messrs. Fuller. We trust the enterprise will succeed to their own liking, and enable them to carry fuller purses than members of the craft are usually bothered with.

MISSISSIPPI LANDS. Half a million of the best acres in the State of Mississippi are for sale. The sale is to commence on the first day of Jan., 1849.

A FLOATING HOSPITAL. The U. S. steamer Mississippi has been one year's cruise on the coast of Mexico, and during that time has had twenty deaths on board, of the yellow fever; five killed, ten wounded, and eleven hundred and forty cases of sickness entered on her journal. Two hundred and twenty of her officers and crew were sent home as invalids.

FIRST SETTLER IN BUFFALO. Ezekiel Lane, died in Buffalo on the 6th ult. He was the first white settler in Buffalo, and lived to see the place become a city of forty thousand inhabitants. He was one hundred and two years old when he died.

CHARITISTS. As much noise is now made in England by the charists, the question is often asked, what are the principles which they wish to establish? The following are said to be the rights they are determined to have:

1—Universal suffrage. 2—Vote by ballot. 3—No property qualifications. 4—Annual Parliaments. 5—Payment of Members. 6—Equal electoral districts.

BOUNDARY SURVEYS BURNED. The National Intelligence states that the maps and other documents relating to the survey of the N. E. Boundary, have been burnt by fire in the house of Major Graham, and that they will have to be replaced by copies of the same in the hands of the British Government.

DISTRESS IN YUCATAN. A savage warfare is going on in this country between the inhabitants and the Indians. The latter, thus far, have been conquerors, and follow up their victories with their usual barbarities.

QUITE A SAYING. The mail routes of the Middle States have been late at a sum of one hundred thousand dollars less than what was paid last year.

STEALING A SAINT'S HEAD. Some unsavory scamp has robbed St. Peter's church in Rome of the head of Saint Andrew. Now, Andrew's head, instead of being "clothed with humility," had jewels worth thirty thousand crowns, all of which the thief has stolen with the head.

ROW AND DEATH. During a supposed drunken row among a number of Irishmen in Brunswick, on Tuesday night of last week, one of them received a blow on the head with some instrument—a pick-axe, or something of the kind—which caused his death the next day. On Friday several persons had been arrested as concerned in the affair, but the perpetrator of the deed had not been discovered.

FUNERAL SERVICES. Over the remains of Capt. Moses E. Merrill, who fell at the battle of Chateaufort, took place, on Monday last, in Brunswick, the deceased's native place.

ANOTHER FORTUNE. Mr. Zachary Potter, of Rochester, New York, recently sailed for England, to take possession of a snug little fortune, amounting to about \$100,000, left by his grand-father, and which comes into his possession through his father's hands. The Rochester Advertiser says there is no humbug about this estate—it's not a Chase affair.

NOT FULL YET. A calculating individual calculates that there is land enough on the surface of our globe, to support fifteen times as many as there is now upon it—say fifteen thousand millions of hungry stomachs. Why are there so many starving now?

STITCH, STITCH, STITCH. Messrs. J. B. Johnson and Charles Morey, of Boston, have invented a sewing machine, which works admirably, and will perform the labor of six or eight seamstresses. The editors of the Traveller, who have witnessed its operation, have confidence in its practical utility. It stitches straight seams to a charm, and does its work firmly, as only strong thread can be used.

USING UP THE BOATS. According to a St. Louis paper, sixty-seven boats engaged in trade from that city, have been lost since January, 1847. Forty-two of them were burned.

HAGER'S CITY. Who ever thought that Hager would have a city in America? What was once Hagerstown, in Maryland, is now a city, all rigged out with a Mayor and a suite of full Aldermen to match.

DISASTER. The ship Cybele, built at Pittston, last fall, and valued at \$50,000, from Boston to Mobile, ran ashore on Stirrup Key, on the night of the 4th ult. After stripping her of the rigging, chains, anchors, &c., valued at \$3,000, the hull was sold for \$600. She was insured to the amount of \$46,000, in four offices—\$10,000 at the Kennebec Mutual office. After stripping her, it was found that she had not bilged, and it was thought she would be got off.

FIRE IN ALBANY. Another destructive fire occurred in Albany, N. Y., on Monday evening of last week. Some twenty-five buildings were consumed. The loss of property is estimated at \$100,000.

PICKPOCKETS. We learn from the Boston Daily Bee, that Mr. Joseph H. Emery, of this town, was robbed of his pocket-book on the South Boston bridge, Saturday morning; contents \$40 in bank bills.

LETTERS FROM THE WEST.

NUMBER VI.

BURNED PRISON, WAYNE COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

DEAR SIR:—The climate of this section of Illinois is more equal in temperature than I have observed elsewhere. The extreme temperature of Summer is quite below, and that of Winter above that of New England. I lost my thermometer, and was without one for nearly two years after I came here; and as one feels cold and hot for himself only, I know but little of the temperature of those years. The two past years, the mercury, in summer, during the hottest weather, was generally up to 80 or 90°; several times to 90, and once last summer to 91-1-2. In winter, several times down to 0, and once (a year since) to 7° below at daylight, and on the 9th of last January, stood 4° at sunrise, 8° at 2 P. M., 8° at sunset, and at 9 P. M., 8° below zero. By far the coldest day I have felt here. On the 10th it stood at 3, 20, 14, rising 5° between 9 P. M. and sunrise, or more for aught I know, I having safely stowed myself out of cold's way at 9 o'clock. This is considered extremely cold for this climate, according to that veritable and acute observer, Mr. "Old-est Inhabitant." I have never but once been obliged to cut the ice, at fifty yards from the spring, to water my stock. But a better criterion is the large streams. The little Wabash, about one hundred yards wide, seldom permits foot-passengers, and I can hear of no animals crossing on the ice except once, when a pair, a hipped on a mule, crossed at a run, the sharp hoofs of the sharpest animal cutting through at nearly every step. The Skillet Fork, about half the size of the little Wabash, I have not known crossed on the ice in this vicinity. Since January 11th, 20 and 23° are my two lowest marks at sunrise; 38 and 40° at 2 P. M. Highest, 56 and 58° at sunrise; 67 and 76° at 2 P. M. The weather generally has been agreeable—mercury ranging from 30 to 50°, with southerly and westerly winds. Blue-grass and red-top have been green in many places for three weeks, and red-top grass lands afford first rate grazing at present. On Dec. 15th and Jan. 8th, were snow storms; falling each time, near eight inches, which is more than all previous since I came here. So you may know that we have but "slim sledding," as snow generally remains on but three to six days. The weather and temperature are somewhat variable, and I know not but we feel the changes as sensibly as in Maine—(so we do, too, in Louisiana)—but there is this difference in the effect—the change of weather scarcely ever produces any serious ill effect upon the health. Slight colds may be taken, but any thing like a severe cough is almost entirely unknown among us. There is a softness of atmosphere not realized by those who have not before felt that keen, cutting sensation in the lungs while inhaling the cold winds of an Atlantic winter or spring. The air of the prairies is, however, of a severe kind in the adjoining timber; it "comes the high way," as the term is here.

I before alluded to the non-existence of pulmonary consumption in several counties near. It is a peculiarity of climate in this section, and should be known. Many a beautiful flower now fast fading into decay in your climate, would bloom in renewed and invigorated beauty here. Though, perhaps, a removal "out west" would be considered "changing worlds," with many, and the final change proffered. I mention this, at present, only as a peculiarity of climate. Possessing no doctor's sheepskin, or commission of mule driver in the army, I cannot assume the authority of the mysterious M. D., to establish my assertions; but facts are stubborn, and can be seen by "some men as well as others;" that same "deep-skin" chancing too often to come from the animal's head, and imparting too much of its nature—where the parchment is the only evidence of qualification. Now, in sober truth, ain't it so, "Gude Doctor?"

I know not how the season advances with you, but I find noted, on the 15th inst., "frogs croaking," and on the 18th they were in full concert, from the innumerable high keyed pipers to the "auld gentlemen" with his occasional cry of "motherhood." Geese have been going north for ten days; turtle-doves are cooing; and on a bright morning there are frequent voices of birds. Why, our streams are less frozen and vegetation earlier here than in the same latitude on the Ohio, east, or at St. Louis, west. I do not know why, but such is certainly the fact. I should have mentioned, when speaking of temperature, that my thermometer hangs on the western wall of my house, exposed to the north and west winds, but completely protected from reflected heat. In summer, it is removed within an open room at 11 A. M., to protect it from any current of warm air that might strike it from the open fields on the west. On the east, south, and north, is an oak forest. In winter the thermometer remains out in the named position. I never compared the instrument with any other; but I had it from the maker, who assured me it was accurate. I mention these circumstances, knowing how hot air, or reflected or radiated heat in summer, by which the observer is frequently deceived. That the temperature of the northern prairies and the Atlantic States is higher than it is here, is well known. I have seen it 103° at St. Louis at 10 A. M., and 102° in Quebec and Montreal, at 10 A. M., and 102° on the prairies north-east of St. Louis, for several days; but in all French lands, with narrow streets and high stone buildings, particularly in the stretched-out days of summer, that seem to expand with the heat, one gets sensibly reminded of the "fiery furnace." I am certain that the most suffocating air I ever breathed in the public road, was on a hot day in the lower town of Quebec—savage and excepting, always, being once halted, in a military escort, in the covered bridge of your "burg," while a long procession marched by, at a dead march, to give us our place; that well nigh proved a dead march to this sinner, so far.

The notion, entertained by many, that this is a hot climate, is quite erroneous. Our warm season is longer, and the cold one of course shorter; but I have seen few days so oppressively hot here as I have seen in Maine; and throughout the cropping season I think the temperature more equal. In summer the dew is very heavy, and on that excuse few work before breakfast. The excuse is good enough when plowing high corn, but otherwise I see no objection to the dew. Most of the diseases of our climate are of a bilious nature, and a large portion of the sickness is attributable to imprudence, bad nursing, and ill-constructed dwellings. Emigrants consider too little the necessity of changing their habits to meet the climate, and when taken down by it, are too likely to treat the disease by its name instead of consulting its nature. Intermittent fevers ("chills" and fever and ague) are common, and can be obtained "almost by asking." What this dread hydra may be up

north or "out west," not knowing I cannot say; but here or at the south I find it not half so difficult of avoidance or cure as a bad cold at the east. I had no slight acquaintance with the "critter" when first at the south, and quite likely should have had a more thorough knowledge had I not brought a little common sense and prudence into exercise. I think a reference to official tables will exhibit a large proportion of children and young persons in this State than in any other; but as I have none at hand, I cannot say certainly. If not so, I am certain that other portions of the State must have much too small a share, judging from the numbers in this vicinity. Sometimes, in winter and spring, we have a disease nearly similar to pleurisy, called here, winter fever, brought on by exposure; violent in attack, and fatal in a few days unless properly treated; but when promptly and properly treated, readily cured. This is by far the worst disease we have common among us. I have heard of many deaths, but having never seen but one case, know little of its nature. One thing in the way of curing diseases here, is the too much prevailing opinion that a pair of saddle bags and a lancet make a doctor! The result you can easily guess—see can "reckon" it very easily. We have some good, first rate physicians, however, and a sick man of course stands a common chance, if his nurse will obey the doctor's instructions, which, "out west," is about one case in twenty.

I have upon this yarn too long, but as I have no time to transcribe, you can take the entire dose, or break it as you will.

Yours most truly,

WANDERER.

KEEPING SHADY. We see it stated, in an exchange, that in Buffalo, N. Y., if a man erects a building and neglects to set out shade trees in front of it, he is fined twenty-five dollars.

EIGHT DOLLARS A DAY. The New York Assembly have passed an act to abolish imprisonment for debt, and to graduate imprisonment for fines. Each day's imprisonment liquidates \$8 of fine. Congress pay that, and if a man wants to receive it, all he needs to do is to get fined, and be entitled to the wages accordingly, while paying it.

SUPPLIES FOR GERMANY. The German Revolutionary Club, of New York, have purchased a thousand stand of arms for German volunteers who propose to leave this country and return to free their "father land" from oppression.

PROFITS OF CHEAP POSTAGE. The increase of receipts at the New Orleans Post Office during last quarter over a corresponding quarter in '47, is \$6000.

CAN'T GET HIM. The President has ordered Gen. Butler to arrest the Commissioner, Trist, and pitch him out of the country. Mr. Trist tells Gen. Butler that he won't be arrested nor "git out" till he has a mind to.

LET THE WILD FARNIS ALONE. A son of the Hon. D. Willott, of Pennsylvania, was poisoned to death, not long since, by eating the roots of the wild prairie. Children should be cautioned not to eat such things. This plant grows in wet places from Maine to Georgia, and every year some child is destroyed by it.

A THUNDERING BUSINESS. The waters of the Niagara have got home again, and resumed the thunder and foam business in their usual style.

MAYOR OF NEW ORLEANS. The Journal states that the newly elected Mayor of New Orleans, A. D. Crossman, is a Kennebec boy, son of Daniel Crossman, Esq. of Greene.

SCREEN LOOSE. John Scow has broken loose from the Montgomery county jail, in Ohio.

LOVETT AND LOVE IT. A Mr. Lovett was arraigned in Philadelphia for keeping a tippling shop.

JUST IN TIME. Mrs. Tuttle, of New York, presented Queen Victoria with a splendid baby jumper, and by the means of it the baby jumped from London to the Isle of Wight.

GETTING FAMOUS. The little tavern where Louis Philippe and his followers were glad to get their victuals when they landed in England, is getting to be a famous place, and is visited by all the *quid nuncs* in the country.

MURDER IN NEW HAVEN. On Sunday morning, the 23d ult., a man by the name of Parkhurst, was murdered in a house of ill-fame, in New Haven, Ct., by a Portuguese named Yeamans, who has been arrested.—He beat him to death with a bed post.

LONG TALK. Some one says that with a speaking trumpet twenty feet long, you can be heard three miles. Did you ever try it?

FATAL ACCIDENT. We learn that, on Friday last, an Irish laborer was killed in Waterville by the caving in of the bank where a number of them were at work. His body was carried to Whitefield for interment.

MORE STEAMERS. We learn by the Eastern Mail that three or four river steamboats are in the course of construction at Waterville, intended to run from and to that place.

DEATH OF MR. ASHLEY. The telegraphic dispatches from Washington to Boston on Saturday, announce the death of Senator Ashley, from Arkansas, after two days illness.

The "colored republicans" of Philadelphia held a very enthusiastic meeting in that city on Monday of last week, to express their joy at the establishment of a republic in France.

NEW STEAM MILL. The new Steam Mill of Messrs. J. N. Small & Co., situated at Baker's Mills, is now in full operation. Connected with this establishment is an upright saw, Lath, Clapboard, and Shingle Machines, now in active employment. Machinery for the manufacture of Shuttles, Spools, Bobbins, &c., will soon be added. That our citizens appreciate these improvements will be seen from the fact that at least an additional million of lumber has been landed at that place during the winter, in contemplation of the increased facilities. (Lewiston Journal.)

"MURDER IN JUST." On last Thursday week, a young man named Norton Bemis was shot down, in the town of Liverpool, Ill., on the evening of his marriage, while walking towards the house of a relation. As Bemis appeared in the figure, he observed a person, in female attire, carrying two guns, and engaged in getting up a chair, on the occasion of Bemis' marriage. He declared that it was an accident, and that he did not know the gun was loaded. It is said, that no unkind feelings existed between the parties. (St. Louis Reveille.)

The laborers of Bangor have voted to petition the Legislature to pass a law making ten hours a legal day's work.

DR. YOUNG'S REPORT.

(CONTINUED.)

The Prairie of York County.

Is a part of Maine does exist as a prairie of the Oak family as in York Co. It is literally a land of oaks. Forming, as they do, the chief composition of the forests, intermingled with the beech, walnut, chestnut, hazel, pine, and an undergrowth of spruce, and if not improvidently diminished by that rulling propensity, a fundress for pecuniary gain, as characterizes the industry of her citizens, we must expect ere long, and, indeed, as we are now beginning to learn, they will form one of the chief sources of the wealth of our State.

The consumption of the oak wood is so general, and so vital a good, that it would, in a report like this, be unnecessary to enumerate its uses. But I am so strongly impressed, not only of the present value of the timber, but of the benefits it should be our admiration to yield and preserve for the use of future generations, that I am constrained to offer some few remarks respecting the species which exist in Maine, and briefly consider the importance of cultivating and preserving them. It is a waste land into valuable forests by planting. This is indeed a subject of the highest importance, and one which should early engage the most promising attention from our Legislature. How, and in what manner, he should feel it incumbent on her to act in this matter, so as to best preserve the interest of the state, many plans could be pointed out, one of which I will take the liberty to briefly propose, though perhaps a little out of place, I make no apology for offering it.

Let certain prize sums of money be offered, to be paid to such individuals as may in a future year, (1855 or 1860), enter their nurseries for inspection, to be examined by a committee, clothed with full power, and to award the prizes according to real value. The number of acres planted, age, thickness and kind of growth, in all cases to be considered. These premiums should be offered in respect to the value of the timber reproduced. If a good premium on oak or horse be the award of \$3 and \$5, 100 thirty white oak trees are, assuredly, as much a matter of course, as the State, the best tree or horse. While the breed in the oak case is supposed to be benefited, and the value of stock thereby enhanced, we shall obtain in the other a thousand fold, so far as the real value of the wood in the various uses in which it may be applied in the future is concerned.

The two cases, I am aware, are very unequal for comparison. We are accustomed to always retaining the oak, and as a matter of course, but their lumber or flesh can never repair the moldering plow, horse or ship. What we want is now, perhaps, a matter of indifference with us. Our grandfathers sometimes plant trees, though they never expect to enjoy the fruits of their labors.

It is in the old age of Ulysses, that, while in the field, planting trees, his son accompanied him, and asked "why wouldst thou put himself to the trouble of planting, when he was never likely to enjoy?" Taking him for a stranger, as he was on his return after an absence of ten years, he replied, "I plant them for my son Ulysses comes home." I know, however, of another good man, whose wisdom, prudence and foresight is obviously instructive, and who, in the Hon. Episcopate, of Oregon, now 73 years of age, employed several men to drop the seed of the ash over a considerable portion of his town, and on being asked why he labored thus, with no expectation of enjoying the fruits of his labors, replied, "oh, they are for future generations."

For future generations? That should be the faithful expression of our will. A careful father, children, and for those who may come after them, and for the honor and prosperity of our republic.

Species of Oaks.

Before briefly characterizing the species of oak, I will preface my remarks by a quotation from Michaux. He says: "Very often an intermediate variety appears to bring two species so near each other that it is difficult to determine, from a single specimen, to which of the two this variety belongs. Some species, apt to vary in their infancy, appear, at that time, so different, that the characters drawn from the leaves are insufficient to denote the same species in the sapling and adult. Several others, on the contrary, are so uniform, that the specific distinctions can only be founded on the fruitification, which is itself liable to exceptions and variations. It is grown up by comparative observations when the trees are grown to the age which we term their youth, and when adult, that one can distinguish between the species which bear a great resemblance to each other, and determine to which species each variety belongs." These remarks are more particularly applicable to the various forms which exist in their infancy, but in the mature state of the oak, we have not more than a quarter of the number of species found in the United States and her territories, a few simple characters entering into the following description may be relied upon as generally correct. For the benefit, however, of the more careful reader, accurate drawings are introduced.

The White Oak, (*Quercus alba*), has the bark white or of a light ash color; the leaves are regularly lobed, about three or four on each side, oblong, rounded or obtuse and very rarely subcordate, often a number remaining on the tree during the winter, and which fall at the rise of the sap early in the spring. The fruit or acorn is seldom abundant, though varying in size and shape, but is generally large, and very sweet; the leaves are contained in a rough and shallow cup, somewhat flattened and of a hemispherical form, with a greyish color. They grow singly or in pairs on footstalks about an inch long, fixed to the annual shoots. This is the most valuable species, and as is well known, applied to almost every purpose in the arts. Michaux remarks that "the district of Maine, Lower Canada, and the State of Vermont, it is rather common, and even seems to be repressed by the severity of the winter." My own observations contradict this remark, especially as to its scarcity, for I know of no State that yields it more abundantly in the various uses in ship-building than our own, and the central towns in York County do so in immense business in furnishing timber and lumber from this and other species. The tree of Alfred, Lyman, Sanford, Shapleigh and Waterbury yield a profuse supply of this species. It is also found, though not so abundant, in the adjoining counties of Cumberland and Oxford, growing more and more rare, northward and westward, until it reaches, according to Michaux, latitude 49° 29', then carrying as far north as the Arctic Circle. On the Peninsula of the first one yet standing, and I am informed by an old settler that they were formerly abundant. It is often confounded with the next species, which, indeed, is more abundant now in some places than the true white oak, being found more or less abundant, forming isolated groves, in every county, save, perhaps, the Arctic Circle. Michaux says, "it exists throughout the United States, with the exception of the district of Maine."

The Swamp White Oak, (*Quercus bicolor*), occurs in this county, though not near so abundant as the preceding and other species. It attains, however, a respectable size, and approaches in value to that of the white oak, and is occasionally used for the same purposes. The bark is whitish-grey; leaves are on short footstalks, three to seven inches in length and two to four inches broad towards the tip, tapering to an acute point at base, with a somewhat acute or obtuse apex, bordered by a wavy line of lobes, acute or obtuse, to within an inch or two of the base, the points of which are somewhat callous. They are more or less downy beneath, but almost white and very downy beneath, with the nerves and larger veins prominent, and red-colored. The acorns are of a brown color, an oval form, quite large, and contained in a cup commonly borne on footstalks from one to two inches in length. They are sweet, but seldom abundant. Found almost exclusively in low, cold, moist ground.

The Chestnut Oak, (*Quercus castanea*), is called from the resemblance of its leaves to those of the chestnut, and another species found in York county, and perhaps in the neighboring county of Cumberland. Mr. Emerson says "it is the banks of the Susquehanna," and says that it grows "about Mt. Argonne." (*Quercus prinus* and *Quercus alba*.) I saw it also on the Mountain river, near Alfred. It is often confounded with the next species in those States where both occur abundantly.

The Rock Chestnut Oak, (*Quercus montana*), I am not as yet aware has been found in this county, but from the fact that Michaux found it in New Hampshire and Vermont, I am constrained to believe that it may yet be found here, and a drawing is annexed in hopes that it will meet the eye of some person knowing its existence in that section. I feel the more encouraged from the fact also that the Little Chestnut Oak, (*Quercus chrysantha*), occurs abundantly on the arid, sandy plains of the north, and as the Chestnut Oak, (*Quercus prinus*), from the resemblance of the leaves of the former to those of the Rock Chestnut Oak, I was at first led to suppose that it might be this species in its early stage, but an examination of the fruit settled this point. These two latter species, the bear oak and chinquapin, are, however, the least of the smallest of the oak family, scarcely attaining a height of more than four or five feet, though the former, scarcely larger, has very different shaped leaves, being lobed and the lobes ending in a bristle, approaching more to the form of the red and scarlet oak leaves. The Bear or Scrub Oak, as it is

sometimes called, is found in our State, more or less abundant in sterile soils, as far north as the 44° 30' latitude, and in the counties of Oxford, Cumberland, Lincoln and Kennebec.

The Red Oak, (*Quercus rubra*), is the most abundant of all the oaks found in Maine, reaching the highest northern latitude, which, according to Dr. Richardson, is found on the barren plains of the Saskatchewan, on the rocks of Lake Namahew. It is found in every variety of soil, often attaining a very large size, having its measured specimens from nine to twelve feet in circumference, although not the largest usually found.

It is of little value, either for fuel or in the arts. Its texture is very coarse and quite strong, but decays very speedily. It is frequently used in the manufacture of barrel staves where no other oak exists, and sometimes enters into the frame work of vessels and buildings. It is a rapid grower, and surpasses all other species in the beauty of its foliage, form, size and shape of its trunk and branches.

Next to this species, Michaux describes what is generally called the Grey Oak, and remarks that "there is not one which grows so far northward." It is also placed to call it the *Quercus bicolor*, on its account. Now, although I have for nineteen years lived in the vicinity of no other species but the red oak, and have frequently heard people talk about grey oak, yet I could never perceive the least distinctive difference in this oak species when planted out, even by competent connoisseurs in woods. Michaux further says, "the timber of the grey oak has absolutely the same texture as that of the other species of oaks called red oak, and it is only in color, and the pores are quite alike, hence it is only for making racks or barrels," &c. A like remark is made of the black oak, which, in an economical point of view, would render this so called species a more variety, and hardly that.

The Scarlet Oak, (*Quercus coccinea*), which is a native of Maine, particularly its most southern section, and where it is universally called red oak, as in York County, which, nevertheless is extensively cut and sold, is much a matter of course, as the State, the best tree or horse. While the breed in the oak case is supposed to be benefited, and the value of stock thereby enhanced, we shall obtain in the other a thousand fold, so far as the real value of the wood in the various uses in which it may be applied in the future is concerned.

The Black Oak, (*Quercus tinctoria* or *yellow-barked oak*), as it is sometimes called, is found in York Co., associated with the scarlet, white, and other oaks, from which it is easily distinguishable by the rich yellow of the inner bark, and, as before remarked, by the orange color of the acorn.

The leaves of this species and those of the scarlet and red oak so blend into each other in form, that a mere description of them would be quite inefficient in denoting their distinctive characters. They also vary considerably in the different stages of growth, yet when mature they are easily distinguished by their general appearance, readily observable by the botanical connoisseur, or less so by the common eye, and in their general color, which is a deep green,

